

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for arranging data, said method comprising:
 - a) receiving said data comprising a plurality of records, each said record
 - 5 having a plurality of attributes;
 - b) determining a set of attributes selected from said plurality of attributes, said set of attributes for placement of said plurality of records in a graphically displayable array, said graphically displayable array comprising a plurality of data points, each said data point representing one record of said plurality of records;
 - 10 c) arranging said plurality of records to construct said graphically displayable array for presenting said data in a format for detecting relationships between said plurality of records.
2. A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said set of attributes
- 15 comprises:
 - at least one dividing attribute,
 - a first ordering attribute corresponding to a first axis,
 - a second ordering attribute corresponding to a second axis, and
 - a visual indicator attribute corresponding to a visual indicator.
- 20 3. A method as recited in Claim 2 wherein said step c) comprises sorting said plurality of records by a first dividing attribute, said first dividing attribute

corresponding to said first axis, and partitioning said plurality of records into groups according to said first dividing attribute;

4. A method as recited in Claim 3 wherein said step c) further comprises:
5 sorting said records of each said group according to said first ordering attribute and said second ordering attribute; and
applying said visual indicator to each of said plurality of records according to said visual indicator attribute.

10 5. A method as recited in Claim 3 wherein said step c) further comprises:
sorting said records of each of said groups according to a second dividing attribute, said second dividing attribute corresponding to said second axis, and partitioning said records of each of said groups into sub-groups according to said second dividing attribute;
15 sorting said records of each said sub-group according to said first ordering attribute and said second ordering attribute; and
applying said visual indicator to each of said plurality of records according to said visual indicator attribute.

20 6. A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein each said data point is represented by a pixel on a display.

7. A method as recited in Claim 2 wherein said first axis is a horizontal axis.

8. A method as recited in Claim 2 wherein said second axis is a vertical axis.

9. A method as recited in Claim 2 wherein said visual indicator is a color.

10. A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said graphically displayable array is a pixel bar chart.

11. A computer system comprising:

a bus;

a display device coupled to said bus;

15 a computer-readable memory coupled to said bus; and

a processor coupled to said bus, said processor for executing a method for arranging data, said method comprising:

a) receiving said data comprising a plurality of records, each said record having a plurality of attributes;

20 b) determining a set of attributes selected from said plurality of attributes, said set of attributes for placement of said plurality of records in a graphically